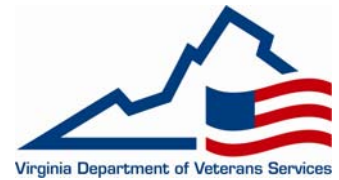


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



900 East Main Street • Richmond, VA 23219 • [www.virginiaforveterans.com](http://www.virginiaforveterans.com)

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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 17, 2008

Contact: Anne Atkins  
(804) 371-0441

### *Veterans Town Hall Meetings Scheduled*

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will hold six town hall meetings across the state during April in partnership with the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). These meetings are a follow up to a series of similar meetings held last year. “We heard loud and clear that veterans have a lot on their minds and that they want the opportunity for their concerns to be heard,” said DVS Commissioner Vince Burgess. “These town hall meetings are an ideal way for us to listen to what they have to say.”

This year’s meetings will focus on the employment and behavioral health care needs of veterans and their families. There will also be time for open discussion on various topics. Before the meetings, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., representatives from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services will be available to talk one-on-one with veterans and their family members. Other state and federal agencies and veterans service organizations have been invited to participate as well, including the Virginia Employment Commission and the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

All veterans and their family members are encouraged to attend the town hall meetings. The sessions will be interactive, and facilitated to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions. Ideas from the sessions will be included in a report to the Governor’s Secretary for Public Safety and members of the state legislature.

Meetings will be hosted at the following locations.

**Dale City**

April 2, 2008  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
VFW Post 1503  
14631 Minnieville Road  
Dale City, Virginia 22193

**Galax**

April 8, 2008  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
Crossroads Institute  
1117 E Stuart Dr  
Galax, VA 24333

**Front Royal**

April 9, 2008  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
American Legion Post 53  
22 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Front Royal, VA 22630

**Salem**

April 17, 2008  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m..  
American Legion Post 3  
710 Apperson Dr  
Salem, VA 24153

**Richmond**

April 28, 2008  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
American Legion, Department of  
Virginia  
1708 Commonwealth Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23230

**Norfolk**

April 30, 2008  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
VFW Post 4809  
5728 Barteet St,  
Norfolk, VA 23502

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## About the Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services operates 22 benefit services offices where representatives help veterans and their family members file claims for federal veterans benefits. The agency operates two veterans cemeteries: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third state veterans cemetery in Dublin is in the initial stages of development. DVS operates two veterans long-term facilities. The Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke is a 240-bed facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The 160-bed Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center is located in Richmond. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations is made up of 23 veterans service organizations in Virginia with a combined membership of more than 250,000. The Council provides advice and assistance to the Governor and the Department of Veterans Services on matters of concern to the veterans community, and provides a conduit of information to and from the veterans service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.